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I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

I also certify that the attached copy of the request for grant of a Patent (Form 1/77) bears an amendment, effected by this office, following a request by the applicant and agreed to by the Comptroller-General.

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Dated 15 September 2004

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19AUG03 E831164-1 B15038
P01/7700 0.00-0319356.2

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

1. Your reference

DSM 10312721ka

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0319356.2

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

MR. CHARLES IFEJKA
BASEMENT
13A WARWICK ROAD
LONDON
SW5 9UL

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

5934393002

4. Title of the invention

Device for enhancing
the cleaning of contact lens

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

See 5/17

Jensen + Son
366-368 Old Street
LONDON
EC1V 9LT

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

968001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

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Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.

-----Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description

Claim(s)

Abstract

Drawing(s)

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Date

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Warning

After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

Notes

- If you need help to fill in this form or you have any questions, please contact the Patent Office on 08459 500505.
- Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.
- If there is not enough space for all the relevant details on any part of this form, please continue on a separate sheet of paper and write "see continuation sheet" in the relevant part(s). Any continuation sheet should be attached to this form.
- If you have answered 'Yes' Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed.
- Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.
- For details of the fee and ways to pay please contact the Patent Office.

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Device for enhancing the cleaning of contact lenses

The present invention relates to a device for enhancing the cleaning of contact lenses. It is often preferable that microbial contamination from all sources is minimised when contact lenses are being used. In particular, microbial contamination is a significant problem with contact lenses. The problems may arise for example when a contact lens is not cleansed sufficiently by the lens wearer. When cleaning a contact lens it is essential that the inner convex surface of the lens is thoroughly cleaned, as this is the face of the lens, which sits upon the eyeball and attracts deposits from the eye. These deposits can in turn attract bacteria and other harmful micro-organisms.

Contact lenses are usually stored in cases, which have lenses that are held within a contact lens holder. The holder has baskets, which cradle the contact lenses with the convex side of the lens facing inward. The contact lenses rest upon a concave plastic or rubber surface, which closely matches the inner surface of the lens. This is the industry standard and there is no requirement for any change to this configuration. However, if lenses are held in this way the part of the lens, which requires the most thorough cleaning, is facing inward and towards each other. Therefore when an outside cleaning agent acts to clean the lenses, the surfaces requiring the most thorough cleaning are hidden from the immediate, most significant cleaning action of the outside agent. The outside cleaning agent will push the lenses onto the plastic or rubber surface upon which the lens rests. This means that the inner surface of the lens, which may have deposits and or bacteria, will be pushed onto the surface upon which the lens rests. The deposits and or bacteria can contaminate the surface upon which the lens rests and the inward turned lenses now act as a barrier to the outside cleaning source, preventing it from cleaning the surface upon which the lens rests or the inner surface of the contact lens.

Various devices have been proposed which assist with either cleaning or sterilising, but no devices have been marketed which realise the importance of orienting the lenses facing in an outward position within the storage case such that a thorough cleaning of the inner surface of the lens is obtained. One such apparatus is disclosed in EP 0394254, which discloses apparatus comprising an agitator with a reciprocating motion, which apparatus is adapted to clean the lens in a short time with minimal effort. It would be very advantageous if the current invention were used in combination with the above-mentioned device. When used in combination with the present invention it provides for a very thorough cleaning of the inner surface of the contact lens and thus greatly minimises the possibility of bacterial contamination of lenses and or the lens case.

CLAIMS

1. A cleaning device for use in cleaning contact lenses comprising tank means for receiving at least one contact lens and contact lens cleaning fluid and an electrically operated motor for agitating the tank means, said agitating means effecting reciprocating motion in a rotational or linear sense, the electrically operated motor simultaneously imparting vibrations to the tank at a frequency of from 10 – 100 Hz, the device having a contact lens holder with baskets that orient the inner convex surface of the lens to face outward toward the source of cleaning such that a thorough cleaning of the inner surface of the lens is obtained.

ABSTRACT

A device for enhancing the cleaning of contact lenses comprising a cleaning agent or cleaning apparatus, and a contact lens holder which orients the inner convex surface of the lens to face outward toward the source of cleaning such that a thorough cleaning of the inner surface of the lens is obtained.

DRAWINGS

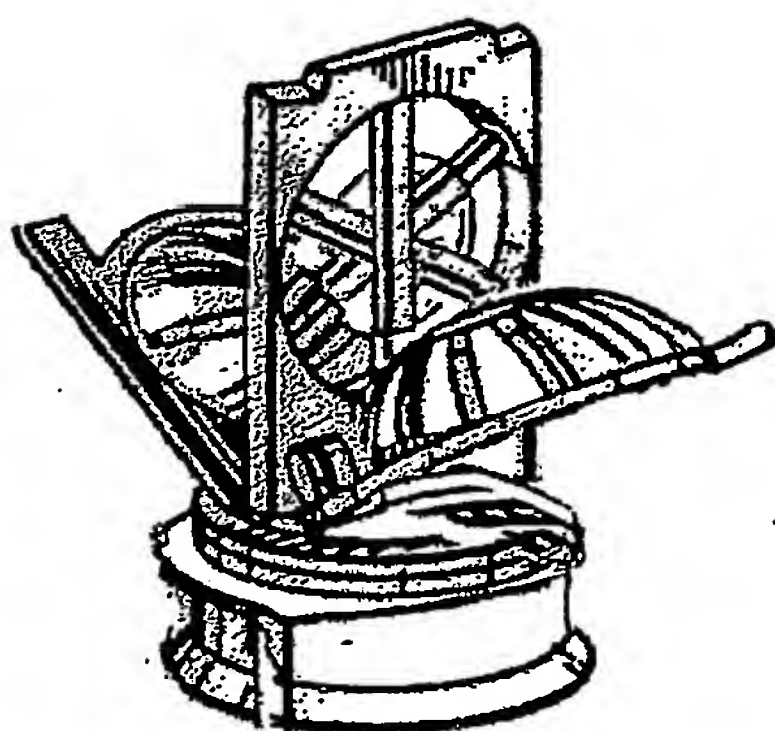


Fig.1